



# GET READY, SANTA BARBARA!

## Home & Family Awareness

### Sustainability—A Little Bit of History

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#### Upcoming Issue in November 2015



Sustainability is the potential to maintain the long term well-being of communities based on social, economic, and environmental requirements of present and future generations. In the context of hazards and disasters, "sustainability means that a locality can tolerate and overcome damage, diminished productivity, and reduced quality of life from an extreme event without significant outside assistance".

#### 2015 Topics

All year you have been reading about Sustainability and what it means to a community and how you can be sustainable as an individual. Next month will see the conclusion of the Sustainability subject. However, I thought it might be interesting to have a short article on some of the history of government involvement disaster assistance. We often consider the past as we move toward the future. In the area of emergency management and response that is very true. A lot of the evolution of emergency management from Civil Defense is because we have learned from each disaster that has befallen the country, state, county, and cities. Below, is a little more of that history and how sustainability has always been at a grassroots level. The government can assist, but we need to be prepared for any kind of disaster.

Historically in the United States, disaster response and relief has *not* been considered the responsibility of government, and most especially *not* the federal government. People caught in natural calamities turned to family and to community organizations like churches and private charities for support. State and local governments readily engaged in rescue operations and the task of re-establishing and enforcing civil order when necessary. Until the early 20th Century, federal response was limited to specific events as determined by Congress or the President.

The 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire prompted the first-ever federal allocation of disaster aid. Congress appropriated \$2.5 million in disaster aid to cover the cost of food, blankets, tents and other relief supplies requisitioned from West Coast Army depots. While President Roosevelt telegraphed California Governor Pardee and San Francisco Mayor Schmitz to express concern and offer "**assistance,**" the assistance consisted mainly of sending Secretary of Commerce Victor Metcalf to the city to keep the White House informed of developments. Tellingly, Roosevelt declined assistance and donations from abroad, saying that the U.S. had sufficient resources, and he directed offers of domestic assistance from such sources as the city governments of Chicago, Boston, New York, and from John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie to go to the Red Cross rather than to San Francisco city government. Note, at that time the City of San Francisco was considered very corrupt, which is why the President deferred the funds to the Red Cross.



From that small initial aid "reimbursement," the federal role in disaster relief has grown. In 1950, Congress gave the President the power to designate "disaster areas." The designation triggers the availability of federal funds for rebuilding infrastructure and public buildings like schools, courts, libraries, police and fire departments, and other public institutions. In 1969, the Disaster Relief Act made federal aid available to individual citizens. In 1979 President Jimmy Carter issued the executive order that created FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

There is so much more to the history of emergency services and federal aid, but there is not enough room here. However, if you would like more information you can [click here](#).

October

Workplace  
Violence

November

Sustain-  
ability

December

2016?

January

Fire Dept.  
History

March

Fire  
Operations

June

Fire  
Prevention

## 7 Prevention Measures to take BEFORE Workplace Violence Happens

The following are seven useful recommendations to help you prevent and resolve conflicts that could emerge within your organization.

### 1. Adopt and promote a prevention and reparation policy against harassment.

- Create a prevention policy involving each level of the organization: management, employees and union representatives.
- Make sure information about the new policy is widely distributed, that all employees know the policy and encourage everyone to make it their own.
- Put a system in place to record all acts of violence by creating, for example, an Event Report Form.
- Set up procedures to handle complaints impartially, confidentially and quickly. These should include measures to prevent any recurrence of harassment and other types of workplace violence. It is critical to ensure that the victim feels safe against retaliation and has the right, if needed, to be represented when interviewed by an independent and qualified investigator. Keep in mind that, in this case, lodging a formal complaint is not always the best solution since it often involves lengthy delays.
- And finally, establish measures to support the victims and the alleged perpetrators.

### 2. Establish clear codes of conduct.

- Define and communicate a clear code of conduct like 'Zero-tolerance' with respect to moral harassment and other types of workplace violence.
- Make sure all employees know your organization's code of conduct. These measures should reflect your organization's commitment to preventing and responding to external acts of violence.
- Try to reduce and even eliminate behavior that disregards your code of conduct by exercising caution and enforcing sanctions.

### 3. Organize awareness and training sessions.

- Take time to organize and provide access to awareness and training sessions on the prevention of workplace violence.
- Open the necessary lines of communication to achieve your prevention objectives.

### 4. Do not allow conflicts to escalate into harassment or acts of violence.

- Monitor the training of work teams. Working in teams highlights interpersonal relations and may give rise to some situations that could cause tension among people.



The National Institute for the Prevention of Workplace Violence defines workplace violence as: "Acts of aggression or violence, that occur in, or are related to the workplace, whether intentional or reckless, including assaults, threats, disruptive, aggressive, hostile or verbal or emotionally abusive behaviors that generates fear for one's safety or entails a perceived risk of harm to individuals, or damage to an organization's



- Deal with conflicts swiftly, and from the moment they begin. Harassment and violence stem from unresolved conflicts that fester. They can degenerate and turn the workplace into a hostile environment and create negative occurrences that are violent and costly.

### 5. Set up effective lines of communication.

- Open effective lines of communication, because aggressors thrive on the silence of victims and witnesses. Communication is a key factor in the well-being of employees.
- Promote communication and regular meetings of your work teams. Strong lines of communication will not only rally employees against violence, they also reduce the risk of workplace violence by defusing tensions and clarifying situations and misunderstandings.

### 6. Pay special attention to the quality of relationships among members of a work team.

- Ensure that work is meaningful for each worker.
- Manage work teams to help prevent and resolve violent situations.
- Model behavior by being fair and respectful with everyone.
- Encourage employees to be tolerant and open-minded about other people's differences.
- Give each person a motivating role.
- Watch for clues that reveal conflicts within the team, such as absenteeism, flagging motivation and performance, and resignations.
- Try to be a catalyst and build bridges between people.
- Introduce technology in a well-planned way.
- Develop the ability to intervene quickly when a conflict emerges within the team, via discussions and mediation.

### 7. Encourage the acceptance of individual differences.

- Communicate the idea that the strength of a team resides in individual differences (We need each other to make a winning team. The "differences" in each team member makes the strength of the team and enhances the team's performance.)
- Where possible, plan social or training activities that help team members get to know each other and discover each other's strengths and weaknesses, from a standpoint of openness to such differences and of acceptance of each team member's willingness to improve interpersonal relations.

## Stella's Corner – Can't Get Enough Water!

It is hard to believe, with the beautiful skies, warm temperatures, and balmy nights that we are heading into a possible epoch rainy season. Maybe. Maybe yes, maybe no. Maybe the storm track is going to split and Santa Barbara's dome of high pressure will route rain to the north and south, and then again, maybe it won't.

All the uncertainty in the conversation is just that, so we still need to prepare. If you have any doubt, review the recent videos in the news of the southern Utah flash flood toppling vehicles and killing more than a dozen children and adults. How about the hikers in Zion National Park, caught unaware in a slot canyon, and being swept away? These are very graphic reminders of the power of water.

Could this happen here? Our topographical features include creek beds, flood plains, and mountains. We hear the term "watershed," but do we understand it? A watershed is a piece of land that separates two bodies of water, for instance a ridge between two creeks, or a mountain range between two rivers. It could be called "waterdrain" but it isn't. In a storm, when the rain falls faster than the ground can absorb it, we have runoff. Runoff will always seek the path of least resistance, whether it is a paved surface, such as a street, or a natural feature such as a canyon, an arroyo, or a ditch. Any low spot will do. Dirt and debris will do the same, and as the watershed becomes saturated and runoff occurs, the soil accompanies the water, and a muddy mess ensues on the low end of the mud scale, or a catastrophic hillside failure such as La Conchita, on the high end of the scale.

Consider, the 'sandbag'. Humble, simple, and amazing when used properly, the sand bag can and does do wonders. The sandbag is just as it sounds, a bag filled

with sand. They are usually polypropylene mesh bags meant to be filled halfway with sand, though not sand from our beaches.

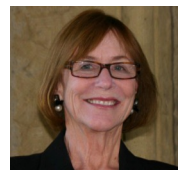
In the event of a FLASH FLOOD WATCH, the City of Santa Barbara Annex Yard at 401 E. Yanonali will open to distribute bags and sand. You must bring your own gloves and a shovel. You may take away 10 bags per resident. For information, watch Channel 18 during storm events, monitor the radio, or call City of Santa Barbara Streets Division at (805) 564-5413 for more information. In the County of Santa Barbara, call County Flood Control (805) 568-3440.

Why wait? A simple online search will yield some alternatives to the sand bag. One site advertises bags filled with dry absorbent material that when wet gathers the moisture and creates a barrier. They can be purchased in varying quantities depending on your need. There are also bags you can fill with water and stack to create the defense you need. It is possible to purchase pre-filled sand bags through the big box hardware stores.

Please, please call your favorite roofer and ask for an inspection. Having simple repairs done now will save thousands of dollars in a rain emergency. Have food supplies, activities to enjoy indoors, and communications ready. Keep in mind, "When it pours; stay indoors". Know the area where you live and if you don't have to evacuate stay put!

You don't want Mother Nature to say, "I told you so."

If you would like to contribute to this column, please contact Yoli McGlinchey at [ymcglinchey@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:ymcglinchey@santabarbaraca.gov)



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## Disasters— 1814 London Beer Flood

On October 17, 1814, a three-story-high vat of beer exploded inside a London brewery and unleashed a tidal wave of porter that killed eight people in the neighboring tenements. Around 4:30 p.m. a storehouse clerk inspected one of the three-story-tall wooden vats girdled with heavy iron hoops in which the black beer fermented. As he looked down from his perch, the clerk suddenly noticed that a 700-pound hoop had slipped off an enormous cask that stored a 10-month-old batch of porter. Around 5:30 p.m., a massive explosion from inside the storeroom was heard. The compromised vat, which held the equivalent of 1 million pints of beer, had burst into splinters. The blast broke off the valve of an adjoining cask that also contained thousands of barrels of beer and set off a chain reaction as the weight of the 570 tons of liquid smashed other hogsheads of porter. The force of the explosion sent bricks raining over the tops of houses on Great Russell Street. A torrent of porter rushed through the narrow lanes of the surrounding neighborhood and swept away everything in its path. With no drainage on the city streets, the wave of black liquid had nowhere to go except straight into the neighboring homes. Residents scaled tables and furniture to save themselves from drowning as the beer inundated the houses. Decrepit hovels flanking the brewery crumbled under the deluge. The worst damage occurred on New Street. The cascade swept away a little girl who drowned in the tsunami of beer. Although on the surface the London Beer Flood may sound whimsical, similar to the molasses flood that struck Boston in 1919, the suffering was palpable. While all inside the brewery survived, the London Beer Flood claimed the lives of eight women and children. Only two days after the catastrophe, a jury convened to investigate the accident. After visiting the site of the tragedy, viewing the bodies of the victims and hearing testimony, the jury rendered its verdict that the incident had been an "Act of God" and that the victims had met their deaths "casually, accidentally and by misfortune." Not only did the brewery escape paying damages to the destitute victims, it received a waiver from the British Parliament for excise taxes it had already paid on the thousands of barrels of beer it lost. For more to the story [click here](#).

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We're on the Web!

[www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes)

and



## Great Shake Out—Get Involved

Spotlight: Last year the **Jessop family** did their drill at home, catching their four home-schooled children off guard.

They dropped, covered and held on, and they also practiced giving medical attention, checking the utilities, and inspecting the house's structure. They also made a list of emergency supplies they would get soon.

They feel at peace knowing exactly what to do, and now plan to participate in the Shake Out Drill each year.

How about you and your family, company, place of worship, social area, etc. How safe do you feel? When was the last time you did an earthquake drill? Fire drill? Do you have your supplies ready? What have you done?

This year the California Great Shake Out will be on Thursday October 15th at 10:15 a.m. Take this opportunity to conduct a drill with your family, friends or co-workers. You can also register at <http://www.shakeout.org/california/index.html> and learn many other ways to get involved with over 9.4 million others in this year's California "Great Shake Out"! Now is the time to prepare, because it's not If, but when.

*Do you have an idea you want to share? Maybe you have another way of saving money when building your kit; we want to hear about it. Send your ideas, questions, or comments to:*

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Liliana Encinas

## Upcoming Events

### ▶ October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Name Your Car Day 	2	3 October 3 
4 	5	6 	7	8	9 	10
11	12 	13	14	15 The Great California <b>Shake Out</b> 	16 	17
18 No Bread Day 	19	20	21 Babbling Day 	22	23	24 Nat'l Bologna Day 
25	26	27 Navy Day 	28	29 Nat'l Franken-stein Day 	30 Mischief Night 	31 Halloween 